

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /082 W  
----- 059847

R 131555Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

CNO

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T TUNIS 2609

CINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FPR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, TS

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO TUNISIA

REF: STATE 85297, DTG 082339Z APR 76

1. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT  
WILL REFUSE PERMISSION FOR NPW VISITS TO TUNISIAN PORTS.  
GOT HAS APPROACHED PAST NUCLEAR SUB VISITS WITH CAUTION:  
FIRST VISIT WENT UNPUBLICIZED BUT SECOND VISIT (MARCH 1975)  
WAS DESCRIBED IN LOCAL PRESS, LOW-KEY, AS NUCLEAR. WE ARE  
NOT AWARE OF ANY ADVERSE REACTION HERE TO THESE TWO VISITS.

2. AT PRESENT TIME, WITH TENSE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN  
LIBYA AND TUNISIA, WE SUSPECT GOT WOULD IN FACT WELCOME  
INCREASED LEVEL OF SIXTH FLEET VISITS. ALTHOUGH TUNISIA

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IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO BITTERLY HOSTILE LIBYAN PROPAGANDA

CHARGING GOT WITH HAVING GIVEN BASE RIGHTS TO SIXTH FLEET,  
WE SUSPECT GOT SENTIMENT AT THIS MOMENT IS THAT SHOW OF  
SIXTH FLEET STRENGTH IN TUNISIAN WATERS IS USEFUL  
DETERRENT TO QADHAFL.

3. FOR THE RECORD, PARA 2(M) OF REFTEL IS INACCURATE.  
GOT HAS NOT SET A LIMIT ON NUMBER OF U.S. WARSHIP VISITS  
YEARLY. PRESENT LIMIT IS ONE ESTABLISHED BY AMBASSADOR.  
PURPOSE OF LIMIT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PREVENT OVERLOADING  
CIRCUITS HERE, IN SENSE THAT WILLING AGREEMENT BY GOT  
TO CONTINUED VISITS DEPENDS TO A DEGREE ON OUR NOT PUSHING  
THEM TO ACCEPT TOO MUCH.

4. NORMALLY WE WOULD PREFER APPROACH SUBJECT OF NPW  
VISITS IN ENTIRELY ROUTINE FASHION, SENDING GOT DIPLOMATIC  
NOTE REQUESTING THE USUAL AGREEMENT TO SCHEDULED SHIP VISIT.  
USUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICULAR VESSEL WOULD MENTION  
THAT IT NUCLEAR POWERED. IF GOT TOOK HIGHLY UNUSUAL  
STEP OF TURNING DOWN SUCH REQUEST, WE WOULD THEN RAISE  
SUBJECT WITH POLITICAL AUTHORITIES.

5. REFTEL SUGGESTS THAT PLANNING PURPOSES REQUIRE  
PERMISSION WELL IN ADVANCE. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THEREFORE  
THAT WE TAKE UP SUBJECT AT HIGH LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY  
AND ATTEMPT OBTAIN PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR NPW  
SURFACE SHIPS TO VISIT TUNISIAN PORTS.

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS APPROACH IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL  
TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT AS TO NUMBERS  
AND DURATION OF VISITS DESIRED OR ANTICIPATED BY NPW VESSELS.  
KING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO TUNISIA  
**TAGS:** MARR, MNUC, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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